

28. 7. 55

Dear Ken,

I am enclosing a map giving the route of my recent Rudall Expedition. The geographical features have been traced from Sheet 14 (De Grey) of the 10 mile Topographical Series (Dept. Lands & Surveys, Perth). The route of the trip as sketched on this tracing is reasonably accurate.

I thought I'd also give you a few general remarks on the trip. The collection may be regarded as a small one as I did not have a great deal of time for collecting. ^{In many cases} I did not get all the species I saw at any locality, but believe that there is at least one specimen of at least 90% of the acridoids seen on the trip. I regret that I couldn't do better but the nature of the trip and the very difficult travelling conditions didn't give me much of a chance. The one community I gave practically no attention to was the parallel sand dunes with Triodia, etc. We had a lot to do with these but had a hell of a tough time in them and endeavoured to keep the vehicles moving, with reasonable success. The country visited apparently had heavy rains along with the station country generally early this year. This was apparent ~~from~~ from the flood debris and the condition of the vegetation.

Acridids were relatively abundant generally and there were a large number of nymphs of many species at many localities. Anthrax was particularly abundant in the rank grass and herbs along the water courses

but was present practically anywhere. I particularly looked out for Chortocetes and collected a specimen or two from all places where it occurred. It was rare however and occurred in few places. At 389 it was fairly common but of low density. Buforania was much more common as nymphs than as adults. Morabines were very scarce indeed. I think it was too late in the season for them. Macrotona - like Acridids were also rather scarce. The Greyacris (?) from the Broadhurst Range was a pleasant surprise. Two of these insects were damaged by being walked on by heavy-footed aborigines. The other three were sitting quietly on rocks in the sun. When disturbed they ran rapidly to a ^{small} Crinia hummock or shrub and stopped at the bottom or climbed into the lower part of the plant. I was rather amused that they did not hop but rather had a rapid ambling motion somewhat like a bug. Incidentally the drying material gives little idea of the brilliance of their colouring. The orange spots on the live male are extremely bright. When picked up these insects erected their tegmina and spread their red wings. They also exuded "tobacco juice" from various places.

There is a very odd brachypterous ♀ from the Savory Creek, which maybe a Pyrgomorphine. It has damaged antennae. This came off a mulga bush. I tried hard to find further specimens but failed.

If you want any information on anything let me

19735

20039

know. I don't know if the collection contains much of interest but there is no doubt that it contains some bloody good distribution records.

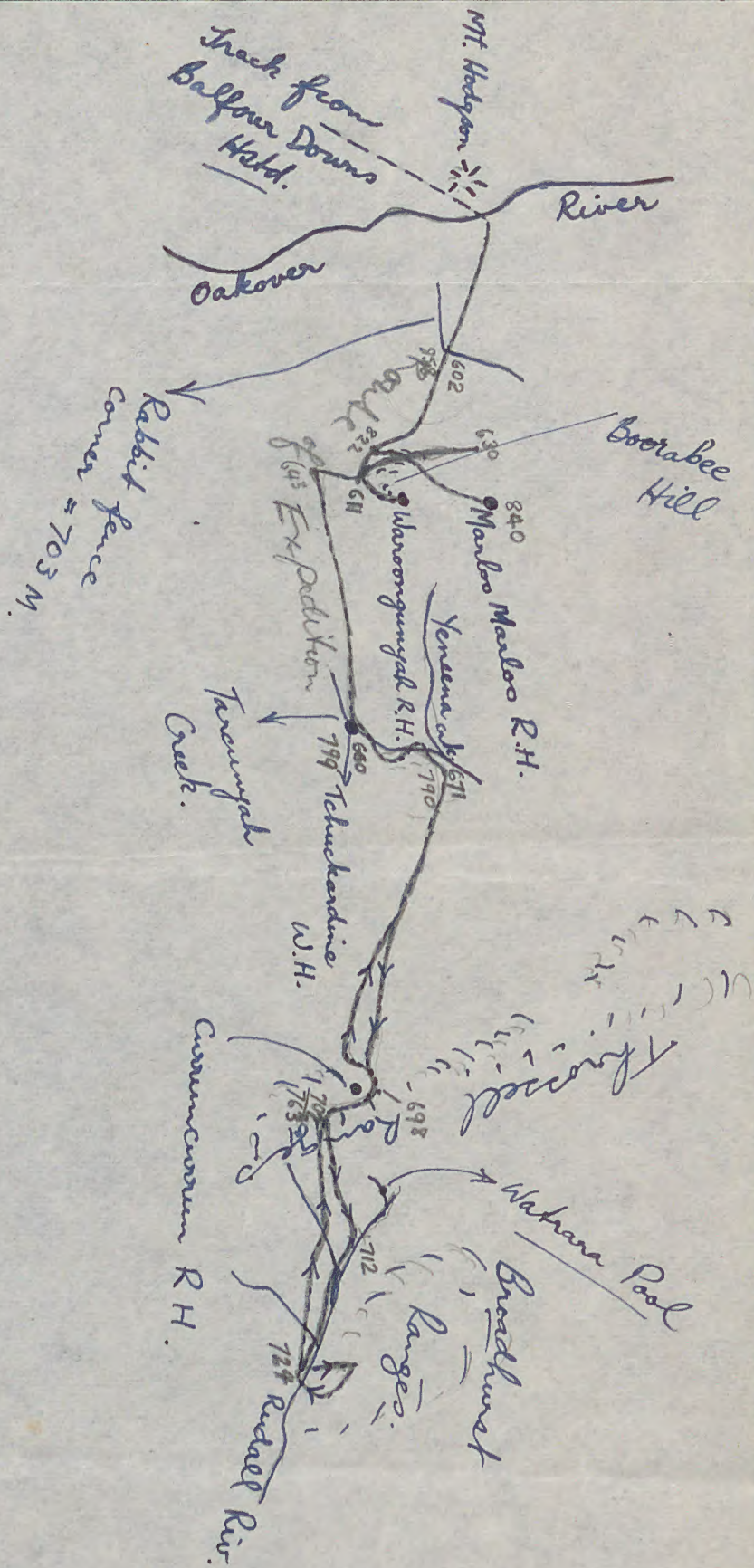
I was pleased to get the copy of the report on your northern trip. Incidentally did you find Petasida? I note in the P.I. News Bulletin that Lew is collecting in Central Australia. The collection must be assuming fantastic proportions now. It is a disappointment to me (and no doubt everyone else) that the Revision is so very far behind.

My next trip to Mt. Magnet and the Murchison-Shark Bay area starts on Oct. 18 and lasts for about 10 days. This should produce a further parcel of good loot. I will doubtless need some more No. 16 nickel pins. Also could you send me a brass fitting for the end of a net handle. One of my two handles was inadvertently lost on this last trip.

Incidentally I had much trouble on the Rudall trip from nocturnal ants and scavenging beetles. They have left their mark on a few specimens and completely destroyed a few others (nothing serious). I couldn't do anything about it except keep the boxes closed (which still didn't keep the ants out). We had completely open jeeps and the ants found the boxes even on the roof.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,
John



6-24/9/55.

Wubin

18863

Field Notes

(For map of route see letter from J.H.C.)

up Great Northern Highway (Further comments in two letters from J.H.C.)

6/9/55.

18950

Isolated clump of *Triodia* and mallee on sandy soil.2 Acridids *Apotropis* sp.Paynes Find mileage not taken (ca. 18957)

18981

Granitic breakaway. no Eucos. ~~all~~ Trees *Bufoania* sp. *Apotropis* sp. *Pycnostictus seratus*, *Senecio* nov 42? and shrubs mostly *Acacias*. Fair covering of ephemeral herbs. ✓ 17 Acridids

19052

Barren stony slope. *Senecio* nov. 42? Sparse shrubs, herbs, and grass. ✓ 1 Acridid

Mt Magnet 19054

063

Breakaway (schistose rock) a few shrubs and some herbs and grass. *Senecio* nov. 42?, *Bufoania* sp. ✓ 3 Acridids

Austin 089

Tuckanarra 131

7/9/55

140

Bare pebbly plain with some short dry to nearly dry *Stipa* along a creek bed. A few *Acacia* trees. *Omalotheca maculata*, *Pycnostictus seratus*, *Chorizanthe tenuifolia*, *Chirotopica histrio*, *Uromyza guttulosa*. ✓ 10 Acridids, 1 beetle.

Nannine 157

160

Fairly green seedling *Stipa* and mulga and other trees along a dry creek bed. *Austrobaileya arida*, *Senecio* nov 42?, *Senecio* nov. 31, *Uromyza guttulosa*, *Chirotopica histrio*. ✓ 15 Acridids.

Meekatharra 19181

Pycnostictus sinatus, *Austroicetes arida*,

Some dry *Stipa* in a creek bed in the town.

✓ 10 Acridids

Left Meekatharra 183

196

Short dry *Stipa* and a few shrubs + small trees
Austroicetes arida, *Urolophora guttulosa*, *Bufo rania* sp., *Pycnostictus*
around a pile of large rocks.
seriatus, *Austroicetes guttulosa*,
✓ 8 acridids

19225

Junction of main Northern Highway (road taken)
and Peak Hill roads.
Onalissa maculata, *Deschampsia* sp., *Bufo rania* sp., *Pycnostictus*
bare stony soil with a few herbs and small
seriatus, tussocks of dry *Stipa*. A few small trees.
✓ 11 Acridids.

Box 3

7/9/55

19245

Creek bed. much green ephemeral herbs and
Urolophora guttulosa, *Deschampsia* sp., *Austroicetes guttulosa*, *Chirotopica*
shrubs. Plenty of *Acacias*, an odd *Eucalypt*.
hirsutus, *Pycnostictus seriatus*,
✓ 10 Acridids.

302.

Bed of middle branch of Gascoyne river. Very stony.
Sphingonotus erythropterus, *Pycnostictus seriatus*
Sparse ephemeral herbs. Encs. in river bed. Some *Acacias*.
✓ 5 Acridids, 1 beetle.

8/9/55 330

Red sandy to pebbly soil with a sparse *Acacia*, etc.
Azila sp., *Austrobaena guttulosa*, *Uromyza guttulosa*, *Apotropis* sp., *Austrobaena*
 tree cover. Hummocky *Triodia* is main vegetation.
arida, *Oraletta maculata*, *Desertaria* sp.
 ✓ 9 *Acridids*.

379

Ephemeral herbs on pebbly red soil. Some *Triodia* and
Uromyza guttulosa, *Oraletta maculata*, *Desertaria* sp.
 trees of mulga type.
 ✓ 3 *Acridids*

389

Flat plain with a fair covering of dying off short
Austrobaena arida, *Desertaria* sp., *Chortocetes perminutus* sp.
 grass and herbage. A few shrubs. (*Chortocetes* fairly
Ephedrus quadrilobus, *Uromyza guttulosa* common: see letter)
 13 *Acridids*, 1 fly.

417

Pebbly flat with ephemeral herbs, *Triodia* some shrubs and
Desertaria sp., *Uromyza* nov. 12(?), *Stropis* sp., *Macrotoma* sp.,
 an odd *Eucalypt*.
Bufoaria sp., *Psychotrius* sp., *Desertaria* sp., *Uromyza* sp.
 9 *Acridids*.

423

Mundivindi

439

Pebbly slope with a fair amount of *Triodia*. Fair
Austrobaena guttulosa, *Bufoaria* sp., *Paranotum* sp., *Uromyza guttulosa*.
 cover of trees mainly *Acacias* but an odd *Euc*.
Uromyza nov. 5(?)
 11 *Acridids*

Left main road at 454

tuned more or less east to 457

8/9/55

457

Creek bed with eucalypt. Sparse tree cover & sparse grass
Conyphus sp., *Austrobaena guttulosa*, *Macrotoma* sp., *Uromyza guttulosa*,
 and herbs on sandy or pebbly soil.
Oraletta maculata, *Psychotrius* sp.
 In this box. 2 *Acridids*, 27 beetles.

(Series continued in next Box (unnumbered))

4
Unnumbered box

8/9/55 457. series continued from Box 3.

In this box. ✓ 1 phasmid, 1 fly, 1 beetle, 10 Acridids.

9/9/55. Went more or less south and met Jigalong Rd.
at Old Murrumbidgee Station. [462]

Went out road to Jigalong Native Rescue Mission

493

Jigalong Mission

Flat stony plain with sparse ephemeral grass
Pycnostichus seriatus, *Qualetta maculata*
and herbs. Some Acacia trees.

✓ 2 Acridids

Frigged about in desert and wound up at
Balfour Downs Station. Did not collect to here

551. Balfour Downs Stn. Hld.

✓ 1 Dynastid.

10/9/55. Went E.N.E. from Balfour Downs Hld. to 556

556. Flat piece of land with seedling grasses and some herbs.

Urochloa guttulosa, *Pycnostichus seriatus*, *Desertaria* sp., *Euphorbia* sp.
Some *Triodia* and shrubs.

✓ 8 Acridids

turned NNE. and camped on Oakey River near Mt Hodgson
at 593

593

Euc. lined river with water in pools. Much tall
Sphingonotus erythropterus, *Gerrhonotus* 57, *Coryphopterus* sp., *Austrocris*
and herbs, drying off. Red sandy to stony soil.
guttulosa, *Urochloa* sp., *Pycnostichus seriatus*, *Moraba* sp.
7 Acridids, 1 wasp, 16 beetles

11/9/55

Crossed river + went ESE passing through "corner" of rabbit proof
fence at the 703 mile. (602).

turned slightly more Sth and stopped about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile Sth of
Boorabee Hill (not Boorabee as map says) at 611.

611 *Eriophloeos* sp., *Austracris guttulosa*, *Coniphotes* sp., *Histrioacrida* sp.,
 Sparse *Acacia* trees. *Cassias* & other shrubs. Good
Desertaria sp., Genus nov. 57, *Ephantus quadrilobus*, *Opheltes*
 cover of drying off ephemeral grasses and herbs up to 3' tall.
Smilax sp., *Urtica guttulosa*, *Strophis* sp., *Pycnostictus seriatus*,
 Some *Triodia* hummocks.

✓ 12 Acridids.

went more or less NE to Waroongunyah Rock hole. [617]

617. Very stony with steep cliffs. *Triodia* various shrubs, odd
Pycnostictus seriatus, *Desertaria* sp., *Bufo* sp.,
Eucalypt. Ephemeral grasses and herbs.

✓ 3 Acridids, 1 wasp.

Back to camp [621]

621 = 611. further collect.

✓ 6 Acridids, 1 earwig, 17 beetles

12/9/55

Went more or less Nth in ranges to 630

630. Very stony soil with *Triodia* mostly. Some shrubs and
 stunted trees. *Bufo* sp., *Austracris guttulosa*, *Goniocidia* sp., Genus nov. 56 sp. 1,
Urosiella sp.
 6 Acridids

Box 4.

13/9/55.

left camp. Went SW to 643, then East past Tchukardine W.H.
 on Jarunja Creek. Followed creek around and camped at 662

662

Shrubs & ephemeral herbs on dry creek bed (sandy). Odd
Goniocidia sp., *Macrotoma* sp., *Pycnostictus seriatus*, *Desertaria*
eucalypt. Some grass. *Triodia* main constituent of vegetation.
 12 Acridids, 13 beetles

14/9/55

Followed Tarcunya creek to junction with Feneena Crk. 671
then turned Eastwards (see map)

678 Large flat sandy area between parallel sand ridges.
Microtoma sp., *Parazelum* sp., *Uoniscella* sp., *Deoetaria* sp.,
Vegetation practically all Triodia.
Austroacris guttulosa
5 Acridids

[lost 3 miles trying to find easier tracks]

697 edge of Throssell Range

698 inside range turned SSE? and followed Range
camped at 701.

701. Triodia & Eucalypt flat. Hard but sandy; close to very
puforania sp., *gottica* sp.,
rocky range with similar vegetation.

15/9/55

continued same direction to 702. then went through Gap &
struck approx. ENE.

706. Between Throssell & Broadhurst Ranges.
Stony slope with some drying grass and large amount of
Austroacris guttulosa, *Euphrosia* sp., *Uoniscella guttulosa*
Triodia. A few Cassia shrubs.
16 Acridids.

Continued roughly same direction until Rudall River. 712

712. Long grasses & herbs near pool in river. Some shrubs
Austroacris guttulosa, *Warramunga* sp., *Uoniscella guttulosa*, *Sphingonotus*
and Eucalypt and a Brachychiton sp. Triodia and scattered
cryptanthus, *Happara* sp., *Pyrenostictus sciratus*,
small trees on stony ridges.

12 Acridids, 2 flies.

16. 9. 55

Followed down Rudall River ESE. to 724

724

Similar vegetation to 712

Peckesia sp., *Goniaca* sp., *Austroscia guthriei*, *Macrotona* sp.
✓ 11 Acridids, 1 wasp.

Went up 6 miles & back to same spot [724] 730

17. 9. 55

Went approx. due Nth into Broadhurst Range. 735.

& back to camp by a different longer route 743.

735

Hard stony terrain Schists sandstones & quartzites.

Bufo sp., *Caprasia* sp., *Sphingonotus erythropneus*, *Warreni* sp., *Triodia* scattered shrubs and small trees.

Lesser amounts of some other grasses and a few

herbs. [ephemerals] *Peckesia* spp. (2), *Suprascula* sp., *Desertaria* spp. (3), *Chotoicetes tenuifera*.

In this box, ✓ 12 Acridids.

[See notes on *Monistria picta* in letter from JHC]

(Series continued in next ^{larger} box.)

Large Box

735 continued from Box 4.

✓ In this box 19 Acridoids

18/9/55

Left Rudall River and went back through same gap in Throssell Range. (763).

763. Stony Range with *Triodia* mostly some shrubs &

a bit of ephemeral grass on flats

✓ 3 Acridids.

Back on more or less same ~~track~~ track to Chuckandine
Waterhole on Jarcunya Creek. (799)

799. Stony country with *Triodia* and shrubs and herbs
Coryphaster sp., *Euphanta quadricolor*,
around waterhole.

✓ 3 Acridids, 15 beetles.

19.9.55

Back on same track to Boorabee Hill, a couple of miles
further to NW than last camp here. 822

822 *Triodia* on sand and among stones, some mulga
and shrubs along creek.
Conialoidea sp., *Cuprascula* sp., *Heteroacrida* sp., *Coryphaster* sp.,
Caprasca sp., *Genus* no. 57, *Warramunga* sp.

✓ 8 Acridids
Ran around in vehicle & back at camp 831

20/9/55

Went roughly Nth through ranges to Marloo Marloo R. H. (840)

840 Stony ranges with *Triodia* & some shrubs.
Austrocris guttulosa, *Caprasca* spp. (2), *Bufozania* sp.

The 4 slender dark Acridids were obt'd in a patch of
shrubby country (*Cassia*, etc) on deeper soil at bottom of
hills.

✓ 7 acridids.

~~19/9/55~~

Returned to Oakover River [866] : Same track.

21/9/55

Returned to Balfour Downs Htd. Same track

882. Scrubby country with shrubs. *Cassia* mainly
Caprasca sp.
✓ 1 acridid

22/9/55

Jigalong Mission 958
 Old Jigalong Vermin Dept Depot. 961.

Went down old No 1 Rabbit fence to Savory Creek

20001

20001

Grass, herbs, shrubs & odd Eucalypts and Mulgas along creek.
Austrochloa guttulosa, *Coryphospora* sp., *Goniaca* sp., *Deschampsia* sp.,
 Some *Triodia* on red sand.

Chrostoclelea tenuinervis, *Pycnostictus sinatus*

✓ 9 acidids

23/9/55

Went east along Savory Creek to 20014

Flat near very large pool with samphire, grass, herbs.
 Some Eucalypts. *Triodia* covered dunes coming in to creek.
Goniacorda sp., *Pycnostictus sinatus*, *Urosalpinx guttulosa*, *Urosalpinx* sp.,
Coryphospora sp., *Sphingonotus erythronotus*, *Deschampsia* sp., *Austrochloa*
guttulosa, *Macrochloa* sp.

10 acidids.

Returned to fence (027)

20039

Flat along creek with short grass & herbs. Some mulga
Pycnostictus sinatus, *Urosalpinx guttulosa*, *Goniaca* sp., *Deschampsia* sp.,
 trees and *Triodia* on broken limestone country.
Callitula sp.

✓ 7 acidids [See letter from JHC]

24/9/55

followed creek to Mundivindi (064)

186 Bare pebbly plain with small amount of dry grass &
Bufoecia sp., *Deschampsia* sp.
 an odd shrub.

✓ 2 acidids

Meekatharra 306.